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FULFILLMENT OF EAST GERMAN FIRST FIVE-FIVE PLAN, 1951-1955

[Comment: This report presents information on 1951-1955 East German plan fulfillment, as given in a report published in the 4 February 1956 issue of Neues Deutschland, principal organ of the East German Socialist Unity (Communist) Party, published daily in Berlin. The report was titled "Report by the State Central Administration for Statistics of the State Planning Commission Concerning Fulfillment of the First Five-Year Plan 1951-1955."]

The State Central Administration for Statistics reports the following results in fulfillment of the First Five-Year Plan, covering the period 1951-1955:

Industry

The disproportions in the economy, caused by capitalist development of industry and especially by the division of Germany, were reduced through the creation of a basic metallurgical industry in the GDR between 1951 and 1953, the expansion of power-generating capacities, increases in the production of raw brown coal, the construction and restoration of 25 heavy machine building enterprises, and other measures.

The rapid development of GDR heavy industry during the first years of the Five-Year Plan permitted a temporary slowing down in the rate of development in some branches of heavy industry, facilitating an increase in the production of consumer goods above the planned level in order to raise the standard of living of the population.

The Five-Year Plan for gross industrial production was fulfilled. The 1936 production level was more than doubled.

Socialist enterprises fulfilled their production tasks and increased their share in the total gross industrial production from 77 percent in 1950 to 85 percent in 1955.

Private enterprises have also participated in the over-all upswing of the economy and managed to increase their production to considerably over the 1950 level.

Production of the following industrial products during the Five-Year Plan was greater than planned: black coal; electric power machinery; marine diesel and gasoline engines; tools and foundry equipment; equipment for the food, drink, and tobacco industries; refrigerators; agricultural machines; construction and road-building machines; automobiles and tractors; sulfuric acid; nitric acid; nitrogen fertilizer; still and motion-picture film; paints and varnishes; penicillin; synthetic rubber; diesel fuel; etc.

Production of the following mass consumption goods was increased during the Five-Year Plan to the levels indicated (figures are percent of 1950 production): household sewing machines, 271; enameled pots and pans, 193; bicycles, 214; electrical household and heating appliances, 314; furniture, 223; musical [instruments?] and cultural goods, 207; woolen fabrics, 218; cotton fabrics, 270; knitted underwear and outerwear, 206; leather shoes, 221; saddler's goods and leather novelties, 250; animal fats, 410; meats and sausages, 418; margarine, 395, and butter, 201.

Because of the temporary reduction in the rate of development in heavy industry, planned goals were not reached for briquettes, iron ore, crude steel, rolled steel, calcined soda, caustic soda, and calcium carbide.

During the Five-Year Plan, the following important industrial installations were considerably expanded: the Steel and Rolling Mill in Riesa, the "Wilhelm Florin" Steel and Rolling Mill in Henningsdorf, the Steel and Rolling Mill in Brandenburg, the Steel and Rolling Mill in Groditz, the "Max Baetz" Foundry in Untervellern, the Alloy Steel Works in Dohle, the Iron Foundry in Thale, the Copper and Brass Works in Hettstedt, the Copper and Sheet Iron Rolling Mill in Ilseburg, and the Mansfeld Metallurgical Combine. The "J. V. Stalin" Metallurgical Combine and the Ironworks West in Calbe are completely new constructions. The Ironworks West is the first low shaft blast-furnace plant in the world, adapted to smelting low-grade ores through the use of newly developed high-temperature metallurgical coke from brown coal.

Technological improvements and better worker training resulted in greater utilization of available capacities during the Five-Year Plan. In the production of crude steel, capacity utilization of open-hearth furnaces in 1955 was 87 percent over the 1950 level. The output of the low-shaft furnaces of the Ironworks West is almost 100 percent above the projected capacities.

EDP goals were fulfilled 105.2 percent in machine construction, 118.7 percent in electrical engineering, and 100.1 percent in precision mechanics and optics. Considerable progress was made in developing the production of efficient equipment and machines, as well as vehicles, ships, and articles of mass consumption.

The heavy machine construction industry increased its production to 227 percent of the 1950 level.

The following large plants were rebuilt and/or had their capacities expanded: the "Heinrich Rau" Heavy Machine Works in Wildau; the "Hans Beimler" Enterprise in Henningsdorf; the "Bergmann-Borsig" Enterprise in Berlin; the Carlisle Machine Plant; the Hohenthurm Steam Boiler Works; the Union Machine Tool Plant in Gera; the Crane Works in Eberswalde; the Railroad Car Production Plant in Gotha; the Steelworks in Brandenburg; the Steelworks in Leipzig; the VEB (people-owned enterprise) "Modul" in Karl-Marx-Stadt; the Machine Tool Works in Aschersleben; the VEB "7 Oktober" Plant in Berlin; and the Mining Machine and Installations Plants (Förder und Anlagenbau) in Kothlen and Nordhausen.

During the Five-Year Plan, the machine-building industry extended its manufacturing program to many new products, including the following: forging presses with a capacity of 6,000 tons; large excavating machines; dump trucks and conveyor bridges; boring mills with spindle diameters of up to 250 millimeters; planing machines with machining widths of up to 450 millimeters; vertical boring mills with cutting diameters of up to 6,300 millimeters; 1,500-ton deep drawing presses; rotary hydraulic duplicating lathes; accounting machines with 50 automatic registers; rotary tower cranes; high-capacity duplicating milling machines; crankshaft presser with a working head of 800 millimeters; grinding machines for roller bearings; pressure casting machines; permanent mold casting machines; gear-cutting machines; motorized fish-catching and processing trawlers; fish-processing machines; and heavy trucks.

In 1955, the first 32-megawatt turbosets (Turboatzte) were produced in the GDR and a 50-megawatt turboset was put into production.

The agricultural machinery industry increased its production to 424 percent of the 1950 level. Many new agricultural machines were produced for the first time in the GDR, including harvester-threshers and harvester-combines for grain and field crops.

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Two wharves were erected and the output of the shipbuilding industry in 1955 rose to 329 percent of 1950 output.

In the electric power industry, power capacities were significantly enlarged and the utilization of generating stations was considerably improved. New power stations, such as the Elba and Trattendorf stations, were built. The discrepancy between the production of electric power and total industrial production, which prevailed in the beginning of the Five-Year Plan, was reduced. Beginning in 1954 the rate of increase in power production speeded up and in 1955 exceeded the rate of growth of over-all industrial output for the first time.

Brown-coal mining, as well as the production of brown-coal briquettes, rose to double the prewar level. The organization of labor in brown-coal mining was improved and resulted particularly in an increased output of raw brown coal during the winter season. The planned goals were not fully attained, however, because the broad-scale use of modern mining techniques and transport equipment was begun too late. A process for the production of high-temperature brown-coal coke was developed, and the large-scale "Matyas Rakosi" Coking Plant was erected in Lauchhammer. During the last year of the First Five-Year Plan, the foundation was laid for the largest brown-coal combine in Europe, the "Schwarze Pumpe" Combine near Senftenberg.

Production in the chemical industry rose to the following levels (figures in percent of 1950 production): basic chemical products, 178; pharmaceutical products, 229; products of the rubber and asbestos industry, 208; and mineral and tar products, 157. Production of sulfuric acid from domestic raw materials was started. New facilities were established for the production of soda ash and sodium carbonate.

Despite a rise in the production of potassium, nitrogen, and phosphorus fertilizers to considerably over the 1950 levels, increasing requirements of agriculture were not fully covered.

Production of synthetic fibers was further developed and increased considerably. The development of Wolcylon had progressed sufficiently by the end of the First Five-Year Plan so that production could be started in 1956.

The goals of the Five-Year Plan were exceeded in the field of light industry. Quality of products was improved and their assortments extended through the use of Fexlon, the production of crease-resistant fabrics, and the development of fine leather. Production of woolen fabrics was greatly increased during the Five-Year Plan. Progress was made in giving products a fashionable, pleasing appearance.

The Five-Year Plan was also exceeded in the foodstuff industry. The rise in domestic agricultural production and larger imports of agricultural products facilitated the increased processing of vegetable and animal products. During the last period, production rose as follows (in percent): vegetable oil, 125; margarine, 396; butter 201; beer 310; and cigarettes, 180.

The planned development of the fishing industry during the period 1951-1955 was not attained.

Better organization of production, increased exploitation of existing capacities, and the most economical utilization of available raw materials, fuels, and other materials were of great importance in facilitating production activities. Workers and employees participated increasingly in the management of people-owned enterprises. The number of participants in interenterprise and interenterprise competitions has grown. Significant improvements in production were introduced in many people-owned enterprises on the basis of

suggestions for improvement. The number of overtime hours and hours lost was reduced to below the number of the first year of the plan. Improved utilization of existing installations and capacities was achieved through better cooperation between production workers and the technical intelligentsia.

Reconstruction was significantly assisted by a continuous exchange of ideas with Soviet innovators who supplied valuable instructions for the increase and improvement of production, especially in the metallurgical and chemical industries and in brown-coal mining. The coefficients of utilization for blast furnaces, for example, were increased in the course of the Five-Year Plan. Well-organized competitions among steelworkers resulted in an important rise in steel production per square meter of furnace space and increased speed of heats in open-hearth furnaces. The goals set for the production of sulfuric acid were surpassed largely because of a better utilization of available facilities. Many brown-coal-mining enterprises are now making better use of their large equipment than during the earlier years of the Five-Year Plan. This increases the coefficient of utilization for large equipment in these enterprises.

Raw material savings for many important products were achieved during the Five-Year Plan. Coke consumption per ton of crude iron produced, for example, was reduced. The yield of finished rolled steel from raw ingots was increased. Consumption of pyrites in the production of sulfuric acid was reduced. However, planned consumption standards (Verbrauchsnormen) were expected for some products.

The economical use of raw materials, fuel, and other materials, as well as the application of new techniques and the increase in labor productivity led to a reduction in producer costs. Efforts must still be made to develop and apply improved standards for consumption of materials and power.

Progress of the crafts and trades during the Five-Year Plan is reflected in the increase of their total output to 171 percent of the 1950 figure. This result was made possible through increased supplies of materials and long-term loans from public (state) funds. To give the crafts and trades further opportunities to increase their output, the government of the GDR has prepared the ground for the formation of an increased number of producer co-operatives of the crafts and trades during the Second Five-Year Plan.

#### Agriculture

Agriculture in the GDR experienced a great upswing during the First Five-Year Plan. Measures for the mechanization of agriculture were introduced and freed the peasants to a large extent from heavy field work. Suitable preparations were made to permit the cultivation of large areas with the most modern equipment and machines.

Gross agricultural production rose to 144 percent of the 1950 level. The share of the socialist sector in agriculture rose from 7 percent in 1950 to 29 percent in 1953. Average yields of the most important agricultural crops were as follows at the end of the Five-Year Plan (in percent of 1950):

	<u>Yield per Hectare</u>	<u>Total Yield</u>
Cereals, including pulses	108	115
Grasses	146	144*
Sugar beets	105	107
Other root crops	139	184
Other hort crops	156	213

\* Includes seeds from fiber plants

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While the plan for per-hectare yield was fulfilled 104 percent for grains and pulses, the goal was not reached for other crops or for the over-all yields. Total yields for grains, including pulses, increased to 102 percent and those for sugar beets to 114 percent of the 1934-1938 level.

The highest yields for potatoes were reached in 1954. Because of unfavorable weather these results were not repeated in 1955.

The livestock population in 1955 was as follows (in percent of 1950):

Total cattle	140
Cows	130
Total pigs	158
Sows	157
Total sheep	167
Ewes	152
Laying hens	163

The increase in the livestock population permitted increases in the total amount of animal products produced from domestic sources to the following level (in percent of 1950):

Total slaughter animals, live weight, including	
poultry	187
Pigs	206
Total milk	165

At the end of 1955, there were 600 MTS in the GDR with a wide net of bridges. Total performance of the MTS rose to 625 percent of the 1950 level. The goal of the Five-Year Plan with regard to tractor work was fulfilled 118 percent. The output of a 30-horsepower tractor, measured in hectares of inter-row plowing, was double that of 1950.

By the end of the plan period equipment of MTS had increased to the following levels (in percent of 1950):

Tractors of all types	285
Threshers	128
Tractor-mounted plows	268
Seed drills	781
Reaper-binders	341

Beyond this, MTS have placed over 3,000 beet harvesters, over 8,000 potato harvesters, and 2,130 combines at the disposal of farmers.

Technical equipment of people-owned farms was as follows in 1955 (in percent of 1950):

Tractors	206
Combines	355
Potato harvesters	174
Milking installations	169

tractor work was increased to 346 percent of the 1951 figure, and field work to 302 percent. During the last year of the Five-Year Plan, people-land farms improved their work.

Agricultural producer cooperatives were formed through the initiative of progressive peasants and agricultural workers, assisted by the party and the government. By the end of 1952, 1,906 agricultural producer cooperatives with 27,000 members had been formed, and they worked 3.3 percent of the arable land of the GPR.

By the end of the First Five-Year Plan, almost 200,000 cooperative members, including 11,287 industrial workers, joined in 6,047 agricultural producer cooperatives. They managed 20 percent of the total arable land of the GPR.

Seventy-seven percent of the agricultural producer cooperatives are of the GPR and include 89 percent of the cooperative members in the GPR.

#### Productivity and Labor Productivity

In 1955, productivity of labor in industrial enterprises had risen to 144 percent of the 1950 level and the average wage for production workers had increased.

As the average wage rose relatively faster than provided for in the Five-Year Plan, the plan for labor productivity was not fulfilled during the period. The 1955 plan for the increase in labor productivity was exceeded. Important increases during the Five-Year Plan were made in technical training of workers in schools established by the state, in evening schools, etc.; and development of socialist competition and the number of participants in socialist competition.

During the Five-Year Plan many workers became National Prize winners, and other honors for good work were conferred.

The number of workers and white-collar workers in the total economy in 1955 was 121 percent of the 1950 number, and the number of production workers in heavy industries, 134 percent.

During the Five-Year Plan, one million youths received training in schools and became skilled workers. In addition, one million workers were trained and certified in the enterprises.

The realization of equal rights for women led to a steady increase in the number of female workers. During the period 1950-1955, the number of women in the labor force increased by 653,000.

The number of workers and white-collar workers in the various branches of the socialist sector in 1955 was as follows (in percent of 1950):

Industry	144
Building construction	174
Agriculture and forestry	201
Transportation and postal and telecommunications service	132
Trade	227

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employment has been eliminated in the GDR. In all branches of the economy there is a demand for technical and scientific specialists and for skilled workers. There is a particular lack of skilled workers in agricultural and construction enterprises. Since the beginning of 1955, about 100,000 workers and employees who had been employed in people-owned enterprises of other branches of the economy, have been working in socialist agricultural enterprises.

#### Investment and Construction

The total volume of the investments provided for in the Five-Year Plan was 15,000,000 IM. This goal was exceeded. The largest share of the investments in each year of the Five-Year Plan, an average of about 60 percent, fell to heavy industry. The coal, metallurgical, and chemical industries took full advantage of the funds provided for in the plan.

A number of new capacities in heavy industry were completed and put into operation. The capacity increase in electric power, for example, amounted to 1225 megawatts. Installations built for brown-coal briquettes had a production capacity of 6.4 million tons; and for sulfuric acid 15,000 tons.

The Five-Year Plan for the building industry was fulfilled. The share of the socialist sector of the building industry in the total output of this industry rose to 76 percent in 1955.

The reconstruction of destroyed cities and building of new housing, especially in industrial centers, was undertaken. Together with the construction of the "K. V. Stalin" Metallurgical Combine in Frankfurt Oder, the first socialist city of the GDR -- Stalinstadt -- was erected. This project, like all others, was executed according to the building schedule provided by the Five-Year Plan and covering the 53 most important cities of the GDR, including Leipzig, Magdeburg, and Rostock.

Important cultural, sports, and welfare facilities were also erected. Development in rural areas did not develop to its fullest extent. Despite great achievements in construction, the need for quicker, better, and more efficient building through mechanization, industrialization, and standardization is still acute. The building industry still makes insufficient use of the modern technology.

Progress was achieved with regard to the continuity of construction in the Five-Year Plan. The method of winter building is being employed more widely. The share of the first-quarter performance in the total annual output of the socialist building industry rose from 12 percent in 1951 to 18 percent in 1955.

#### Transportation

The Five-Year Plan for transportation was fulfilled throughout. Freight transportation, rose in 1955 to 172 percent of the 1950 level.

The German Reichsbahn increased its performance in goods transportation to 174 percent of 1950. The number of freight cars in usable condition considerably increased through planned repairs and new construction. The turnaround time of a freight car in 1955 was lower than in 1950.

In passenger transportation, the German Reichsbahn increased its performance to 124 percent of the 1950 level.

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Commuter traffic for workers was improved by coordinating timetables with enterprises, concluding contracts for commuter transportation (Beruf-Verkehrs-Vertr ge), adding trains, introducing express service, and putting 240 new two-story cars into operation. Because of price reductions for sports, youth, hiking, and transportation trips, the number of persons transported at reduced prices in 1955 rose to 190 percent of the 1950 figure.

Inland shipping increased its performance in 1955 to 137 percent of 1950; this includes the performance of the people-owned fleet, which was 165 percent of the 1950 figure.

The Five-Year Plan for commercial highway freight transportation, expressed in tons, was fulfilled 126 percent. In 1955, an increase to 157 percent of 1950 was reached, mainly as a result of improved organization of work and better utilization of vehicles.

The performance, by value, of the postal, telecommunications, and radio services rose in 1955 to 115 percent of 1950. The number of radio subscribers rose from 3.5 million in 1950 to 5 million in 1955. The number of television subscribers rose to 45,000. The number of trunk telephone subscribers increased in 1955 to 134 percent of the 1950 figure.

#### Foreign and Intra-German Trade

The goal of the Five-Year Plan was reached and the volume of foreign-trade turnover was increased to 280 percent of the 1950 volume. This increase was facilitated by the Soviet Union, which canceled the reparations debt, reduced the postwar debts, and transferred the 120 former SAC enterprises to the GDR.

The volume of export trade showed an especially great increase; it rose to more than six times the 1950 figure, particularly in the sector of machine construction, including precision mechanics and optics and electrotechnical products. The share of the metal-processing industries in the total export volume rose from 32 percent in 1950 to 60.4 percent in 1955.

Business with capitalist foreign countries has been thoroughly developed. Trade and payment agreements were concluded with over 20 capitalist countries. During the second half of the Five-Year Plan, close foreign-trade relations with nations of Asia and Africa began to develop. In the course of the Five-Year Plan the GDR participated in over 100 international exhibitions and fairs.

Despite the continuous efforts of the GDR government and its readiness to fulfill the agreements concluded with West Germany, the authorities in Bonn have steadily hampered the exchange of goods between the two parts of Germany. The volume of intra-German trade in 1955, therefore, was not even double that of 1950.

#### Increase in Standard of Living

The standard of living has increased speedily as planned. The rise in industrial and agricultural production, as well as the increase in the performance of the construction industry and in transportation and trade have raised the national income in 1955 to 162 percent of the 1950 level.

The share of the socialist sector in the national income increased from 53 percent in 1950 to 63 percent in 1955.

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Of the total national income, an average of 13 percent was devoted to the accumulation of capital (i.e., capital formation) during the Five-Year Plan. The great bulk of the national income was available for individual and social consumption.

The wage fund for employed persons in the GDR rose to 163 percent of the 1950 figure. The income of the working farmers increased to about 180 percent of the 1950 level.

The increase to 27 billion DM in retail turnover which was scheduled by the Five-Year Plan to be reached in 1955 was actually achieved in 1953. Consequently, the plan for retail trade turnover for the years 1951-1955 was completed 114 percent for foodstuffs and 112 percent for industrial goods.

Retail trade turnover in 1955 rose to the following levels in percent of 1950 (computed in prices effective during each current year):

Food, beverages, and tobacco	172
Foodstuffs	177
Beverages, tobacco, and luxury goods	165
Industrial goods	129
Shoes	255
Woolen and clothing	216
Other industrial goods	189
Total	183

The number of sales outlets of the state-controlled retail trade increased from 2,100 in 1950 to 25,100 in 1955; cooperative retail trade outlets rose from 14,000 to 29,100.

The supply of goods offered for sale in rural areas in 1955 was much greater than in 1950. Consumer cooperatives opened 105 rural department stores during the Five-Year Plan; the northern Bezirke, however, such as Schwerin and Neubrandenburg, are still insufficiently supplied.

Price reductions carried out in the various years resulted in savings of 13 million DM for the population.

Supplies for the population, through retail trade, plant kitchens, etc., were as follows in 1955 (figures in percent of 1950):

<u>Item</u>	<u>Supply</u>
Meat and meat products	221
Poultry and fish products	238
Eggs, total	211
Milk and cream	163
Sugar	123
Eggs	280
Leather shoes	276
Knitted underwear (including athletic track suits)	425
Knitted underwear	213
Bicycles	553
Radio and television sets	553
Barbers	769

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Income taxes were steadily reduced, wages were increased, and expenditures for culture and health care in the GDR have risen consistently. In the course of Five-Year Plan the following wage tax reductions and wage increases were carried out:

In 1951 a wage tax reduction with an annual saving of 220 million DM for the working people; in 1952, a wage increase for skilled workers in the most important branches of industry; in 1953, a wage tax reduction with an annual saving of 450 million DM for the working people; in 1953, a wage increase in wage brackets I to IV; and in 1954, a wage increase in wage bracket V to VIII.

State budget expenditures for cultural and social purposes represent an important source of increase in the standard of living. In the course of the Five-Year Plan, 12.6 billion DM were spent for public education, science, and culture alone, and 25.4 billion DM for social insurance, work safety, old-age homes, and nursing and social homes. Funds amounting to 14.7 billion DM were expended on reconstruction and new construction of tuberculosis hospitals and therapeutic resorts, polyclinics, convalescent homes, sanatoriums, spas, nurseries, and children's homes.

In the field of culture and health care, the goals of the Five-Year Plan were reached and even exceeded. While there were only 21 universities and advanced schools (Hochschulen) in 1951, there were as many as 47 in 1955.

The following institutes of higher education were opened between 1951 and 1955:

Advanced School for Heavy Machine Construction in Magdeburg, Advanced School for Electrical Engineering in Ilmenau, Advanced Technical School for Chemistry in Halle-Merseburg, Advanced School for Foreign Trade in Berlin-Staaken, Advanced School for Domestic Trade in Leipzig, Advanced School for Building and Construction in Leipzig and Cottbus, Advanced School for Transportation in Dresden, Medical academies at Magdeburg, Erfurt, and Dresden, Institute for Agricultural Producer Cooperatives at Meissen, Institute of Cinematographic Arts (Film-Kunst) at Potsdam-Babelsberg, German Institute of Physical Culture and Sports in Leipzig, and Institute for Economics and Planning in Berlin.

The number of students at universities and advanced schools increased from 27,600 [in 1950] to 60,150 [in 1955]; and the number of correspondence students, from 2,300 to 14,600.

The percentage of workers' and peasants' children at the universities and in advanced schools rose from 38.6 percent in 1950 to 55 percent at the end of 1955.

Vocational schools had an enrollment of 48,500 full-time students in 1951; their number had increased to 66,300 by the end of 1955. In addition, there were also about 20,800 students in evening classes and 19,00 correspondence students.

Scholarships and stipends are granted to about 87 percent of all students at universities and advanced schools. The number of participants in courses at the schools for higher adult education (Volkshochschulen) rose from 774,500 in 1952 to 919,300 in 1955.

In compliance with the demand for an improvement in the level of rural schooling, the number of one-class schools, 960 of which were still in existence in 1950, was reduced to about 50.

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The number of central schools (Zentral-Schulen) in rural areas was steadily increased. In 1955 there were 1,500 central schools.

Also, 100,000 places have been established since 1952 to accommodate children of working mothers in kindergartens, nurseries, creches, and elsewhere. This represents an increase of 35 percent, over 1951.

The number of theaters increased from 77 at the end of 1951 to 88 at the end of 1955. The number of spectators rose from about 14 million during the 1950-51 season to approximately 17.4 million during the 1954-55 season. The reconstruction and the opening of the Berlin State Opera was an important event in 1955.

In 1955, the number of performances in motion-picture theaters was substantially above the 1951 figure. The audience rose from 188 million to 266 million during the same period. Further progress was made in the production of films. In addition to several domestic films, a number of foreign films were shown.

The publication of books and pamphlets showed an exceptional upswing. During the last 3 years, 26,000 titles were published in editions totaling 320,600 copies.

Considerable funds were spent in the development of sports during the Five-Year Plan. Of the approximately 1.1 million working people who are members of the sports movement, 239,000 are bearers of the sports performance badge (Sportleistungsabzeichen). By the end of 1955, the title "Master of Sports" had been awarded to 142 men and women, and 7 had received the title "Meritorious Master of Sports."

The number of sports facilities increased from 15,570 in 1952 to 18,160 in 1955. Among these, the following warrant special mention: the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark in Berlin, the Stadium of Peace in Frankfurt Oder, the Baltic Sea (Ostsee) Stadium in Rostock, and the Pool for Swimming Races (Schwimmkampfbahn) in Rostock.

Health facilities were greatly expanded and health protection was considerably improved. The number of hospital beds increased by 15,700 in the period from 1950 to 1955, resulting in a total of 203,000 beds in hospitals. Also, 175 polyclinics were newly established, 42 of them in enterprises, resulting in a total of 369 polyclinics, 78 of which are enterprise polyclinics.

A key point in the health program is the improvement of the health care of the rural population. By the end of 1955, their special needs were served by 299 rural dispensaries and 4,031 community nursing stations, 2,519 of which are located in MTS or in localities which have MTS and agricultural producer cooperatives. The polyclinics and rural ambulatories are equipped with the most modern medical appliances.

The development of the facilities for mother and child care is especially satisfactory. The number of places in children's nurseries and in permanent homes for babies and infants rose from 8,542 in 1950 to 59,500 in 1955. Infant mortality has been reduced from 7.2 percent in 1950 to 4.9 percent in 1955.

The vacation services of the trade unions were continuously improved with the result that in 1955 more than one million working people spent their vacations in trade-union homes.



The cost of a 2-week holiday stay in the homes of the FDGB (Free German Trade Union Association) was lowered from 70 DM to 30 DM in the course of the Five-Year Plan.

At present, 80,000 places are available in old-age and nursing homes to provide for the aged and for those in need of nursing care. During the last 3 years a great number of places were newly established in these homes.

The working people of the GDR have accumulated rich experiences during the period of the First Five-Year Plan; these will serve them in speeding up modernization, mechanization, and automation of production in the GDR and in increasing labor productivity. The peaceful use of atomic energy will greatly contribute to the fulfillment of these tasks. Friendship and close collaboration among the People's Democracies offer a guarantee of a still more rapid development of the GDR economy during the Second Five-Year Plan.

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